

Friday, 01 May 2020

**The plan to return our community to St. Paul the Apostle Church and the celebration of the sacraments.**

Our Mission: RETURN TO BASE ST. PAUL

Commander-In-Chief: Fr. Wencil Pavlovsky, Pastor

Mission Commanders: Kathy Gianinni and Wendy Salas

Our mission to return the community to St. Paul will take place in several phases in compliance with the directives of our Archbishop, Cardinal DiNardo, and our Governor, Greg Abbott.

**Phase I:** Beginning Sunday, 03 May 2020, the church and chapel will be open for private prayer and meditation from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm every day except Saturday. Saturdays we need the chapel for recording the Sunday Masses that will continue to be posted on our parish website for those who cannot attend Mass in community. Those adorers who have the key code to the chapel entrance can enter any time of day or night for private prayer.

**Phase II:** Beginning Monday, 04 May 2020, the parish staff will return to work in the office from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. There will be NO meetings (evening & day) during this first week of May 04 – 09. During this week, our Mission Commanders and their volunteers will work to procure the necessary supplies for our return to the church and to organize and form the volunteer teams we will need.

Supplies we need:

- Gallons of hand sanitizer
- Disposable face masks
- Disposable gloves
- Bottles of medical alcohol
- Plastic spray bottles
- Paper towels
- Rags for wiping down pew seats
- Disinfectant for use on finished wood, the pew backs

Volunteer teams needed:

- Parking lot attendants to count people
- Ushers and greeters at the doors
- Sacristans and Acolytes for each Mass
- Teams to sanitize the church after each Mass

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT, FOR NOW, THE CARDINAL HAS SUSPENDED THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAY. That means that you can choose a weekday Mass and consider that your Sunday Mass. IF YOU ARE NOT WELL, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO MASS.

**Phase III:** Beginning Tuesday, 12 May, weekday Masses will begin **in the church** Tuesday through Friday at 8:30 am in English and on Thursday at 7:00 pm in Spanish. We are permitted 25% occupancy which means **no more than 225 people** in the church. All coming to Mass must wear face mask and gloves and observe social distancing to protect the health of each one.

One section of the church will be reserved for all over the age of 60, who are most vulnerable to COVID-19.

We ask parents with children to make sure that their children can and will wear a face mask and gloves while in church. We are as concerned about their health as you are. If your child cannot or will not wear a face mask and gloves, it is better that you view Mass on-line as a family in the safety of your home.

At the Cardinal's request, Holy Communion will be given in the hand and NOT on the tongue. Holy Communion will be distributed only by the clergy (Deacons and Priests). You will need to remove your gloves to receive Holy Communion and put them on again immediately afterward. The Precious Blood will not be offered.

There will be NO music at these weekday Masses.

Neither the Quiet Room nor the Nursery will be open as these spaces are too small for social distancing of families with small children.

There will be NO Mass on Saturday morning as we need the time for recording the Sunday Masses that will be posted to our parish website on Sunday.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT can resume on Tuesday morning, 12 May, IF there are enough Adorers to sustain the Adoration schedule. Please remember that the same Body of Christ is present in the tabernacle even if He is not exposed in the monstrance. Jesus always welcomes us to prayer and meditation.

Evening meetings can resume beginning Monday, 11 May. All in attendance must wear face mask and gloves and observe social distancing to protect the health of each one. Please remember that the building must be vacated no later than 8:45 pm and locked at 9:00 pm. Please respect the schedule of our staff that lock up the building.

**Phase IV:** Beginning Sunday, 17 May, we will celebrate Sunday Masses with a reduced schedule. We will celebrate Mass at 5:00 pm on Saturday and

9:00 am and 5:00 pm on Sunday. One weekend, these Masses will be celebrated in English, the next weekend at these same hours Masses will be in Spanish. When Masses are celebrated in English, the Spanish Mass will be recorded and available on-line. When Masses are celebrated in Spanish, the English Mass will be recorded and available on-line.

Sunday, 17 May the Masses will be celebrated in English and the Mass in Spanish will be on-line.

Sunday, 24 May the Masses will be celebrated in Spanish and the Mass in English will be on-line.

It is my hope and prayer that for Sunday, 31 May, Pentecost Sunday, we can return to our regular weekend schedule of 4 Masses.

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Music will be limited to one instrumentalist and one cantor.

Neither the Quiet Room nor the Nursery will be open as these spaces are too small for social distancing of families with small children.

#### **Other Sacraments and issues:**

The parish staff will notify those of you whose Mass Intentions had to be postponed due to the "Shelter in Place" just as soon as they are rescheduled.

The regular schedule of Baptism of Infants and Small Children will resume in the month of June.

The celebration of First Holy Communion will be scheduled in late summer and early autumn. Parents will be notified as soon as dates are set.

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for our young people has been postponed. We are waiting for a new date to be given to us by the Cardinal's office.

I am hoping and planning to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with our catechumen and candidates in RCIA on Sunday, 14 June, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.

I encourage couples' whose wedding had to be postponed contacting me as soon as possible to schedule a new date for your wedding. Our parish calendar will fill up very quickly.

For those parents who had to postpone the celebration of Quince años, please call the office as soon as possible to set a new date. Our parish calendar will fill up very quickly.

Throughout the "Shelter in Place" order, I have kept the regular Confession schedule, hearing confessions on the front "porch" of the church. Confessions will now move back into the church, but not into the confessionals. These rooms are small and not very well ventilated. Confessions will be moved into one of the parlors at the end of the hallway. Please understand that Fr. Jim Bradley will not be available for some time. There will be only ONE priest hearing confessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 pm until 6:30 pm.

May we be filled with the same Light that filled St. Paul the Apostle.  
May we, through the intercession of our Mother Mary, be safe and healthy.  
May we enjoy the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Welcome home to Easter Joy!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Wencil', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fr. Wencil